

## THOMAS C. SMITH



Thomas C. Smith was the son of Richard Smith and Dianna Brazel. He was born in Gibson County, Tennessee, on February 25, 1825. When about fifteen years of age, he, with his parents, moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. His parents had joined the Latter-day Saints some time before.

They lived in Nauvoo from 1842 to 1846, when the Mormon people were compelled to leave their homes and cross the Mississippi River into the state of Iowa. Later, the Smith family managed in some way to move to Mount Pisgah, a temporary Mormon settlement some thirty miles west of Nauvoo. There they could secure outfits with which to go to the Rocky Mountains. Joseph Smith had prophesied they would go and become a mighty people, building many towns and cities. Thomas C. Smith saw the prophet and patriarch many times in life and also their dead bodies after they had been cruelly murdered by the mob in Carthage jail. He testified that he, with others, saw the water in a small creek near Nauvoo, and it was almost like blood on the day of the martyrdom. He also remembered seeing the showers of stars that fell

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in 1833 and the flocks of quail that settled down on their tents and wagons in 1846, when they were driven out of Nauvoo and were in a starving condition.

The Smith family lived at Mount Pisgah some four years. While living there, Thomas C. Smith became acquainted with a very fine young girl named Sarah Frampton and they were married there on January 13, 1850. She was born November 14, 1834, in Clay County, Missouri, and was the daughter of David Frampton and Elizabeth Huff. Her father had been a member of the Mormon Church in early days, during the cruel persecutions and final expulsion from the state of Missouri, and had been in prison one year merely because he was a Mormon. He proved true to the gospel and the Church, however, and was with those members of the Church who were driven out of Missouri into Illinois and helped to build up the beautiful city of Nauvoo, where he was accidentally killed by a falling tree in the year 1843, leaving his wife and two little girls.

Thomas C. Smith and his young wife came to Utah in 1852, along with his parents and the rest of the Smith family, and passed through all the trying experiences of crossing the plains in those early days with ox teams, being afraid, more or less, all the way on account of the Indians. It is said Mrs. Smith drove two yoke of oxen all the way. They made the long, tedious trip in two months without any very serious mishap, and made their first home in Provo. After staying in Provo a year they moved to Springville. They lived in Springville about seven years, and three of their children were born there: John Alma, Sarah Irinda and Amanda Jane. In the spring of 1862 the family moved to Heber and made their home here as long as they lived.

Thomas C. Smith was not very robust in health, so he worked at odd jobs to make a living for his family of 10 children. Later, when the stores were established in Heber, he obtained employment as a clerk in the Hatch store.

Mrs. Smith was an excellent wife and mother and a faithful Latter-day Saint. She was an earnest worker in the Primary for years. She died December 3, 1893; he died March 14, 1899. Thomas C. Smith was a

private in the Utah militia and fought in the Indians wars.

Children: Mary Elizabeth, John Alma, Sarah Irinda, Amanda Jane, Annie Lenora, Martha Ellen, Eliza Lavernia, Dempsey Matilda, Thomas Devera and James Richard.